

Standard 35 File "C" Version

Technical Information Regarding Variable-Length Records

This document provides information regarding the creation of Standard 35 File "C" version paid claims records for those entities that are unable to create variable length records. This file is also called the F35C file and S-35C file. F35C records are variable-length records coded in EBCDIC and are designed to be processed in a mainframe environment by the IBM z/OS mainframe operating system. The records are typically blocked using a block size of 32760, which is the maximum allowed by the operating system. An F35C record (data portion only) contains a header portion that is 470 bytes long and from 1 to 99 detail segments (claim lines) that are each 310 bytes long. The number of detail segments in a record is indicated by the Segment Count field near the beginning of the header.

The instructions below provide information on how to create fixed-length F35C records for those entities that are unable to create true variable-length records. Such entities create fixed-length claim records that are made to appear to be variable-length. In this case, the records are not blocked. There is only one record per block.

A variable-length record has four bytes of variable control information appended to the beginning of the record by the operating system. The first two bytes of the control information are a binary number whose value is the total number of bytes in the record, including the control information. The second two bytes of the control information contain binary zeros. This control information is called the **Record Descriptor Word (RDW)**.

For blocked records, which are virtually always the case in the mainframe environment, the operating system inserts an additional four bytes of variable control information to the beginning of each block. The first two bytes of that control information are a binary number whose value is the total number of bytes in the block, including the block control information. The second two bytes of that control information contain binary zeros. This control information is called the **Block Descriptor Word (BDW)**.

The first step is to determine the maximum number of detail segments that will ever be reported in a single claim record. It can be any number from 1 to 99. Keep in mind that a typical claim has from 1 to 3 detail segments. A high number will result in a greater number of unused bytes in the typical claim record. This number is then used to calculate the values that go into the RDW and BDW.

The length of the data portion of the record is calculated as $470 + (310 \times \text{MAXSEG})$, where MAXSEG is the maximum number of detail segments. Let's name that value RECLLEN. The decimal value in the RDW is calculated as $\text{RECLLEN} + 4$. Let's name that value RDWVAL. The decimal value in the BDW is calculated as $\text{RDWVAL} + 4$. Let's name that value BDWVAL. The RDWVAL and BDWVAL are converted to 2-byte hexadecimal values. On the next page are two examples of these calculations.

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Example #1:

Assume the maximum number of segments is 99. The RECLen, RDWVAL and BDWVAL are calculated as follows:

RECLen decimal value = $470 + (310 \times 99) = 31160$

RDWVAL decimal value = $31160 + 4 = 31164$

RDWVAL hexadecimal value = 79BC

BDWVAL decimal value = $31164 + 4 = 31168$

BDWVAL hexadecimal value = 79C0

Thus, fixed-length records with a total length of 31168 bytes are created. The first eight bytes of each record contain the BDW and RDW and are hexadecimal 79C0000079BC0000. The next 31160 bytes contain the data portion of the claim record.

Example #2:

Assume the maximum number of segments is 40. The RECLen, RDWVAL and BDWVAL are calculated as follows:

RECLen decimal value = $470 + (310 \times 40) = 12870$

RDWVAL decimal value = $12870 + 4 = 12874$

RDWVAL hexadecimal value = 324A

BDWVAL decimal value = $12874 + 4 = 12878$

BDWVAL hexadecimal value = 324E

Thus, fixed-length records with a total length of 12878 bytes are created. The first eight bytes of each record contain the BDW and RDW and are hexadecimal 324E0000324A0000. The next 12870 bytes contain the data portion of the claim record.